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The Common Cause

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The Position of Women Teachers	670
Equal Pay for Equal Work	671
The Prevention of Venereal Disease	672
The Labour-Saving House	673
Reports, &c.	675

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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1]*

Notes and News.

The Maternity Bill.

One question out of the many involved in the creation of a Ministry of Health is clearly before Parliament in definite form. The "Maternity and Child Welfare Bill" was introduced in the House of Commons on March 14th by Mr. Hayes Fisher. It is intended to give to local authorities in England the same powers with regard to the care of mothers and infants as are promised by the Scottish and Irish Local Government Boards, and it is on these grounds that the Bill is being pressed forward by its supporters. It is likely to meet with serious opposition only if it appears that its passage will add to the complications to be faced in instituting the future Ministry of Health. In itself the Bill is a fairly simple measure. It provides for the formation by local authorities of maternity and child welfare committees, including specially appointed members, "qualified by training and experience in subjects relating to health and maternity." It is also laid down that the committees shall include women and members of the insurance committees concerned. Their function will be to deal with the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children who have not attained the age of five years and are not being educated in schools recognised by the Board of Education.

The Ministry of Health.

Dr. Addison has now announced that the long promised Government Bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Health will probably be introduced in the House of Commons immediately after the Easter recess, which should give it a good chance of becoming law before the end of the session. No item in the programme of legislation now before Parliament excites more interest in the country than this; meeting after meeting of societies concerned with such questions has discussed the means of substituting an orderly and well-thought-out regime in matters of national health, for our present confusion of semi-responsible departments.

The extent of that confusion may be gathered from a speech of Major J. H. Hills, M.P., at the annual meeting of the Women's Local Government Society, in which he said that the work of health administration was divided among twelve Government departments, only roughly correlated and often overlapping.

The resolution subsequently moved at the same meeting by Dr. Jane Walker to the effect that in the new Bill provision should be included for inviting the services of men and women alike, in the higher administrative positions as in the lower, in the new Ministry, will be heartily endorsed by all suffragists and by not a few who were formerly "antis." The statement made over and over again in connection with this subject that 1,100 babies' lives are being lost every week from preventable causes, is answer enough to the question, "Why is this a measure particularly concerning women?"

Housing after the War.

The war did not create the housing problem; that was already with us in an acute form; but it has added to its difficulties, and that in face of the fact that enormous numbers of men are at present abroad or living in camps and huts in this country. In spite of legislation giving wide powers to local authorities to produce their own housing schemes, to acquire land and build on it, and to force owners to make their property reasonably fit for habitation, the supply of houses in existence before 1914 was very far from sufficient for our needs.

Since then house-building has practically come to a standstill, except in certain munition areas, in which an enormous temporary increase in the population had brought matters to such a pitch that it was absolutely necessary to undertake housing schemes if the workers were to have roofs over their heads at all.

The Local Government Board has circularised local authorities asking for information as to their present and future housing needs, and promising substantial financial help from the Treasury for housing schemes carried out as soon as possible after the war. A Committee formed by the Ministry of Reconstruction has reported on the means of simplifying the acquisition of land for building purposes. Other committees are considering the revision of by-laws dealing with housing, and questions of cottage construction. The latter has a sub-committee of women to consider cottage building from the point of view of the woman who does the housework. The very size and urgency of the problem are forcing everybody to admit that it will have to be met by something more drastic than the old way of leaving it to the Borough Councils to deal with, or to let it drift as they thought fit.

Women's Liberal Federation.

The Women Liberals were holding their council at about the same time that the N.U.W.S.S. were holding theirs. Like the suffragists the Liberal women protested against the *Maisons Tolérées* in France, and demanded that they should be put out of bounds for British troops.

The W.L.F Council also expressed its "hearty satisfaction that the anticipation of the enfranchisement of women had led to the formation of Liberal and Radical Associations for men and women on equal terms." It rejoiced in the passage of the Representation of the People Act; expressed its confidence in Mr. Asquith's leadership of the Liberal party; called for the establishment of a League of Nations; expressed its determination to do all in its power to carry the war through to a righteous peace; deplored the treatment of conscientious objectors; supported the Education Bill; reaffirmed its adherence to Free Trade; protested against the proposal to include Co-operative Societies in the Labour Party; pressed for prohibition of liquor traffic during the war and demobilisation; demanded equal divorce; and urged the Government to establish a Ministry of Health.

The Federation will go on with its work, and will, of course, endeavour "to secure the enrolment of women voters in the Liberal and progressive forces of this country."

THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Head Office:—

39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Funds nearly **£3,000,000** ***Founded*** **1830**

LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN.

Recognising the increasing importance of LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN, this Society has issued a leaflet explaining the methods by which a woman can make provision for her later years, or, in case of early death, for those who may be dependent upon her. A copy of the leaflet and any other information required will be forwarded on application.

THIS SOCIETY BEING A MUTUAL ONE ALL THE PROFITS BELONG TO THE MEMBERS.

.....

(Fill Up, Cut Out, and Forward)

To the Actuary & Manager,
National Mutual Life Assurance Society,
39, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. 2.

Please forward me a copy of leaflet "Life Assurance for Women," and quote rates applicable to age.....next birthday.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

"AT LAST!"

AS an enfranchised woman you probably saw, and were stirred by the fine sentiment of, the CARTOON bearing this title in a recent issue of *Punch*.

The subject, however, has its very practical as well as its sentimental side. Has your splendidly won freedom brought you a measure of independence, or is it likely one day to do so without the exercise of at least some initiative on your part?

You know that your father and your brother took advice regarding *their* problem of provision for dependents, and for old age, but do you yet realise that at least equally sound advice may be available for yourself?

Anyhow, it is worth while enquiring whether any helpful suggestion is forthcoming to meet the varying circumstances of your particular case, by a postcard addressed to the nearest Branch or Agency, or to the Head Office at Norwich of

THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY,

THE OUTSTANDING BRITISH LIFE OFFICE.

The Position of the Woman Teacher.

Anyone who was present at the Albert Hall meeting of the National Federation of Women Teachers on Saturday last must have become aware, with perhaps some surprise, that the woman teacher has found herself, rather suddenly. In the past teachers have been busily occupied in assisting in the development of the powers and personalities of their pupils with an altruism that far too frequently resulted in ignoring the facts of their own social and economic existence. They attempted to dwell apart in a region of intellectual wisdom, a spiritual "Palace of Art," taking no thought of such mundane matters as due remuneration for daily work: as Miss Margaret Bondfield expressed it on Saturday, accepting in lieu of fair remuneration "the honour and glory of their work." A short-sighted policy, the consequences of which not only the teachers but also their pupils have had to face. Miss Bondfield, Dr. Christine Murrell, and Miss Susan Lawrence told the great meeting which packed the stalls and three-quarters of the arena of the Albert Hall something of what this short-sightedness has cost the nation.

Miss Lawrence, who received an ovation, said that the women who had secured the overthrow of the L.C.C.'s suggested scale of salaries "had done a magnificent thing, not merely for themselves and the position of women in general, but for the future of education and for the whole child population of London." To-day a crisis has arrived in the history of education, new and great schemes are before the country and "the success of the schemes will stand or fall by the success of the movement for the women." The London County Council scale had been on the whole a not unsatisfactory one as far as the assistant masters were concerned, but for the women it was most unsatisfactory and its acceptance would have meant the branding of the teaching profession as an inferior profession for women—a second-rate profession. Miss Lawrence laid stress on a fact which has hitherto been almost entirely overlooked by the powers who hold the educational purse—that the payment of women teachers is part of a large question, the economic position of all women who earn salaries or wages, not merely a matter of the number of women ready to take up teaching and their modest views of their own money value.

Dr. Christine Murrell applauded on medical grounds the action of the women teachers in securing the withdrawal of the London County Council scale. While the teacher was underpaid, and therefore not properly housed and recreated, not only did she personally suffer and gradually become of less value to her employers than she should be, but the education of her pupils suffered and was not of that high order that the welfare of the community demanded. The future of the rising generation depended upon the teachers, and it was a matter of national importance that every teacher should keep herself as physically and mentally fit as was possible; staleness in a teacher was almost worse than dullness.

The statement that the woman teacher has found herself suddenly is, we believe, a correct one. Miss Bondfield's accusation of the teacher's adherence to a false standard of gentility in the past was received with good humour. Mr. Harry Gosling's direct appeal for the acceptance of a trade-union standpoint was met with doubt, or rather with contradiction. Miss Agnes Dawson was at some pains to relate the history of the movement within the National Union of Teachers towards equal pay for equal work, and the defeat of the resolution which had been brought forward year by year.

Mr. Whitehouse, M.P., who intends to propose the following amendment to Clause 38 of the Education Bill, which deals with the payment of educational grants, "provided always that the Local Education Authority to whom such grants are payable gives no privilege or differentiation of salary to any teacher on the grounds of sex," roused enthusiasm by his confident announcement that "the battle was as good as won," since, as the resolution before the meeting phrased it, the matter was one touching men and women *voters*.

Mr. Gosling thought this view too sanguine. The payment of a large section of State servants is, however, a political matter,

and one where the effect of the use of a political tool cannot be disregarded. In the past, had all the men teachers carried on a determined campaign for the equal payment of men and women, the battle might have been won before the days of women's enfranchisement; although it is evident from many published reports in the Press and from the views expressed in Cd. 8939, "Report of the Departmental Committee for enquiring into the principles which should determine the construction of Scales of Salary for Teachers in Elementary Schools," that many men with Parliamentary power would have opposed such an allocation of public money as unnecessarily generous.

The conclusion of the whole matter appears to be that no sense of humility, no standard of false gentility, and no complacent acceptance of the existing condition of affairs ought to induce women to refrain from demanding the measure of justice due to them. How far the altruism of the women teachers in this matter has kept back the clock of education posterity only will be in a position to judge. There are, however, other bodies of women, whose professions have been rated as inferior to the teaching profession, the day of whose financial freedom will dawn when men and women teachers receive "equal pay for equal work." For the sake of these women in professions and in industry, as well as for the sake of the pupils in our schools, and the men and women teachers to whom the nation looks for the reconstruction of society, we congratulate the National Federation of Women Teachers on the withdrawal of the London County Council's salary scale.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Part I.

We must face the fact. With the Representation of the People Act on the Statute Book, with the N.U.W.S.S. deploying on its wider front of equal liberties in all spheres of life, with the problem of women in industry opening up a whole programme of complex work in front of us, we have got to make up our minds exactly what we mean by "equal pay for equal work," and exactly how we intend to set about getting it.

Of course, what we mean by it is broadly this:—That where a woman does the same work as a man, during the same hours, under materially the same conditions, and where she does it as efficiently, she should be paid the same wage. We do not pretend that the work is equal where the woman's inferior muscular capacity renders her output less; where her "marriage mortality" depreciates her value as a permanent skilled worker; where her subjection to factory legislation involves her employer in restrictions and regulations which her male colleague would not require. For work of obviously inferior value to the employer, the Suffragist can hardly challenge the payment of a correspondingly inferior wage. But the fact remains, that looking round the professional and industrial worlds, such inferiority as we have just considered by no means accounts for the huge and universal discrepancy between the earnings of men and women which actually exists. Let us write off a certain measure of real inferiority in a certain number of women's occupations—let us be generous and add to it a certain measure of supposed inferiority, such as the social preference for a man-servant to wait at table or a boy to sit on the box-seat of a carriage or motor-car—even then there remains a vast discrepancy which we have not accounted for, some cause or causes of low wages quite apart from the actual efficiency of the individual woman as compared with that of the individual man. We see it in the teaching profession, in the Civil Service, in a myriad of industrial processes. We see it when we compare, not the efficiency of men and women in identical work, but the efficiency of men and women in similar grades of work. The child's nurse, for example, although she is engaged in work at which no man could touch her as regards efficiency, does not expect to receive a wage equal to that of her brother in some other occupation of corresponding skill and status.

This, then, is the kind of discrepancy that Suffragists have in mind when they demand equal pay for equal work; and it is in connection with its cause and cure that the phrase "equal pay for equal work" has become a controversial one among Suffragists themselves. Miss Rathbone, for example, names what she regards as the outstanding cause—*i.e.*, the burden of the family on the male wage-earner—and argues that so long as this cause is allowed to operate, the demand for equal pay for equal work is an inequitable one and an insatiable one. Others believe that the discrepancy is largely due to custom and to the weakness of women in accepting that custom, and urge, as Mr. Oliver Strachey urges in The Common Cause of March 8th, that it be attacked from the front by direct demands backed up by strong industrial and political organisation. None of the disputants, of course, deny that the causes of the discrepancy are "multiform, manifold, and menacing"; the difference of opinion is largely a question of stress. Miss Rathbone stresses the woman's lesser economic needs as an independent individual; Mr. Strachey stresses her disorganisation. The present writer, as the following dissertation will show, is inclined to stress the over-supply of women in the Labour market as compared with the number of occupations open to them.

It is not, of course, that there are more women than men in the industrial and professional worlds of to-day and yesterday; there are not, of course, anything like as many. The trouble is that such women as there are—or were under the old pre-war conditions—have been forced to compete in a relatively smaller field, have been forced into cut-throat competition in those occupations in which their work is superior or equal in efficiency to that of men, and having overstocked and forced down wages in those occupations, must needs seek further outlet in those where their work is inferior. And so it may be said that the comparatively low level of women's wages is primarily a matter of supply and demand. It is a statement which Anti-Suffragists loved to hurl at us in days gone by when we spoke, sometimes a trifle inexpertly be it confessed, of the industrial uses of the franchise. And in making such a statement they spoke, undoubtedly, the truth, and nothing but the truth; they did not, however, speak the whole truth. For instance, they made no attempt to enquire why the demand was such, relative to the supply, as to cause this cut-throat competition. Largely, of course, by reason of the custom, tradition, prejudice, sex-jealousy, or whatever we may call it, which has from time immemorial barred out women from so many occupations which they are perfectly well-fitted to perform. And it may be noted that such a wages discrepancy, once established, and in a sense justified by economic conditions, tends to perpetuate and intensify itself by force of custom.

Nor did our old opponents make any adequate attempt to examine the conditions of supply. Had they done so, they would have been forced to the conclusion that cut-throat competition may be a matter of quality as well as of quantity; that fifty unorganised women may do as much harm to one another's wages in a given occupation as twice that number of good trade unionists capable of hammering out a collective bargain with their employer.

And it is such disorganisation among women workers in the past, and only to a slightly lesser degree in the present, which has rendered their competition in a restricted area so peculiarly destructive. Its causes are, of course, legion. To some extent it is part of a vicious circle, the result of the low wages themselves, and of the kind of social inertia which low wages bring—to say nothing of the practical difficulty of paying trade-union subscriptions out of a weekly income which works out at something well below a civilised subsistence level. But in the opinion of the writer, an outstanding cause, perhaps even *the* outstanding cause, is the absence among large numbers of women workers of a real feeling of permanent interest in industrial conditions: the conception of industrial life as a stop-gap pending marriage or as a means of adding to existing home resources. Contrast this outlook with that of the male worker whose individual and family well-being (if he has not actually got a family presumably he looks forward to having one some day) are dependent for all time on his industrial conditions, and we shall see that these economic burdens which Miss Rathbone regards as predominantly responsible for an unequal standard of pay, do in very truth account for a huge divergence in the incentive of men and women to organise and fight for better conditions.

At first sight this reasoning might appear to bring us somewhere very near an admission of Miss Rathbone's case. The writer intends, however, to crave space in next week's issue for the purpose of contemplating the yawning chasm which appears to lie between herself and Miss Rathbone.

Mary Stocks.

(To be continued.)

The Prevention of Venereal Disease.

By Dr. C. W. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S. Ed., &c.

(1) The Treatment of Existing Cases.

The two important venereal diseases are due to two parasites which can live outside the human body only for periods to be measured in minutes—apart from special experiments for their artificial culture. Hence the treatment and, if possible, the *cure*—which may be otherwise looked at as the *disinfection*—of existing patients is necessarily the prevention of the disease in all whom those patients would otherwise have infected, and if completely carried out would presumably end these diseases altogether by exterminating the two parasitic species to which they are due. Hence, despite appearances, it is logical and necessary, in the general discussion of the prevention of these diseases, first to consider treatment—that is to say, attack upon the parasites where they are to be found.

The International Medical Congress, which met in London nearly five years ago, was dominated by one immense new fact—the creation of a drug which is capable of exterminating the foulest thing that grows, the parasite of syphilis. That fact, in its turn, depended upon the discovery of the parasite in question, which we call the *Spirochaeta pallida*, and which was discovered in 1905. Add a third recent achievement, the invention by Wassermann of a test which enables us to assert or deny the presence of the living spirochaete in the body even when no actual specimens of it are to be obtained—and we see a tripod upon which is based the Right to Cure. The Royal Commission which, thanks notably to Sir Malcolm Morris, was appointed as the direct result of the Congress, did not propose to make new and large discoveries in syphilology. The essential discoveries have been made, once and for all, within the last dozen years. They show that we can end this disease when we please, and the Royal Commission was designed in order to demonstrate, before the public mind, the ghastly extent of the ruin wrought by syphilis, and the truth that the science which is power has now imposed an evident and immediate duty upon all responsible citizens. The patient, adult or ante-natal, "guilty" or innocent, has the right to cure; and the medical profession, which exists, as its name implies, to heal, claims the right to cure, *and thereby prevent*, this disease henceforth.

The Royal Commission unanimously and overwhelmingly demonstrated what students of the subject already knew in 1913, and it proceeded to deal with the object of all medical science, and syphilology not least, from the pioneer days of my teacher, Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, to the completion of Paul Ehrlich's work five or six years ago. The recommendations of the Commission state how *the right to cure* may be achieved for patients and doctors alike. The Commission has from the first looked upon its business as medical—*i.e.*, healing or curative. Its recommendations are chiefly medical. It has concerned itself with syphilis as the punishment of "guilt" only in so far as to show that the most hideous consequences commonly fall upon absolute innocence. Accordingly, we have a series of recommendations on the venereal diseases, bravely and rightly published and urged in time of war, such as might be made in respect of any other diseases of equal importance, if such there were, as there certainly are not. All medical science is primarily for treatment, the modern idea of preventive medicine being etymologically a contradiction in terms. The right to cure is, however, enforced incalculably here, when we perceive that to cure, to kill the infection in the infected person, is preventive medicine indeed, for it is to prevent the disease in all of the living and the unborn whom he or she would otherwise have infected. But in order to treat anything we must identify it. Let the reader summon a sympathetic imagination to these paragraphs that follow, so that in concrete, prosaic proposals for the diagnosis and treatment of syphilis and gonorrhœa, as public medicine, he may see the lines of victory over the microscopic murderers in our midst, compared with which the Germans are a kindly, Quixotic, tonic or trivial foe.

For diagnosis, we must establish pathological laboratories, where the spirochaete can be detected and the Wassermann test be made. These must be organised in connection with county boroughs and county councils and, in the large centres of population—which are, even out of proportion to their numbers, the large centres of this disease—the universities, university colleges, and medical schools would take a share. The Treasury finds three-fourths of the cost, and local authorities only one-fourth. Of course, from any point of view which can be called decent, or even rational, questions of money are nugatory here, where national life, health, sanity, are at stake, and where the expenditure of pence to-day saves pounds per week for years to come. Consider merely the cost of syphilitic insanity and paralysis, under which headings we had better quickly learn to include "general paralysis of the insane" and locomotor ataxia.

The object of diagnosis, facilities for which are thus to be provided for the whole community, is treatment. No simpler or more obvious proposition could be. To the medical mind it is a superfluous truism. Not so here. For it is part of the hateful history of these diseases, of the futile attempts to deal with syphilis, in especial, before twentieth-century science, and of the attitude of the "unco guid"—than which nothing more vile and evil, in principle and practice, can even be conceived—that diagnosis of venereal disease has hitherto been liable to mean almost anything but subsequent treatment and cure. It has been liable to mean social and financial ruin, ostracism, public shame, imprisonment, persecution—everything but that for which medicine exists. I repeat, therefore, that to-day we demand the chance to diagnose because we demand the right to cure.

The facilities for treatment of these diseases, rather than for any other that exist, should be immediately accessible to the whole community, for the most evident reasons. There should be no impediments to rich or poor. Hence the Commission recommended that, for treatment, there should be no residential tests, no money tests, and all possible secrecy. The treatment must, in the main, be institutional. The general hospitals, which exist to cure disease, which have their beds occupied and obstructed with, for instance, locomotor ataxia, not one case of which have they ever cured, must do their share, so that in a decade or two locomotor ataxia may be as rare as leprosy. The treatment must be free. The principles which are represented by the Charity Organisation Society are irrelevant and inapplicable to the extirpation of a public infection which exists in all ranks of society and is no respecter of persons. It is not charity, nor discipline, but public health that we are here concerned with. The *odium theologicum* of charitable subscribers to general hospitals has been most successfully met by a campaign of public education, not least as to the ante-natal infection of innocent infants by their no less innocent mothers, and perhaps even by an effort of our ordained teachers of morals to remind our modern givers of money that, according to St. Paul, it is possible to give one's body to be burned and have not charity.

Tuberculosis and the acute infectious diseases are notifiable. Since the beginning of 1916, even measles has been notifiable. Again, let us hold hard by the principle, so obvious and so elusive, that the object of medicine is cure—and prevention. Notification is for early diagnosis and cure—not for statistics, nor for the doctor's notification fee. In the case of venereal disease the attempt to compel notification might delay or entirely prevent diagnosis and treatment. But here delay is more than dangerous; it is constantly fatal, alike to cure and to prevention. We cannot deal with the civilian population as with our soldiers, among whom the concealment of venereal disease is, as it should be, a military crime. Instead of trying to compel notification, with the evident menace of compulsory detention or exposure to follow, let us freely offer help, and nothing but help, to the victims of diseases for the present and future existence of which at all we are, in fact, all demonstrably responsible henceforth.

(2) The Suppression of Quackery.

Before he had been very long at the Local Government Board last year Lord Rhondda introduced what is now the Venereal Diseases Act, by which the quack is prohibited from treating these diseases. In this respect he dared, and with due caution, to go ahead even of the Royal Commissioners, who found abundant evidence of the harm done by the quack and by quack remedies, but who did not, because then they wisely could not, specifically recommend what Lord Rhondda has now accomplished. No one could read the evidence and the Commissioners' opinion of it without seeing that legislation against the quack is essential for the suppression of these diseases; but such legislation was impracticable until competent, free, secret, humane

treatment had been everywhere provided, as the Commissioners desired. Most remarkable progress has been made in such provision since they reported, and Lord Rhondda's action was as timely as it was certainly brave. Much may be said on both sides as to the prohibition of unqualified medical practice in general, but the continuance of unqualified practice in the venereal diseases to-day is an infamous crime, above all against the helpless unborn, the eyes, the brains, and the minds of hosts of whom depend on how these diseases shall be treated now. Last year there was published, in support of Lord Rhondda, a list of reasons for his action, upon which I cannot improve and which runs as follows :—

1. Because quacks do not pretend to be able to employ the modern methods of diagnosis, without which it is impossible in many cases to detect venereal diseases in their earliest stages, when alone their progress can be stayed.

2. Because quacks not only frequently fail to detect syphilis when present, but often mistake for that disease some trifling skin affection, and so cause the patient unfounded alarm and anxiety, and put him to needless expense.

3. Because they have not the skill and knowledge necessary to administer the only effectual remedies for venereal diseases.

4. Because the herbs and other agents they employ are known to be useless in syphilis and at the best only palliative in gonorrhœa.

5. Because under quack treatment the patient is not rendered non-infective, as he quickly becomes when skilled medical treatment is applied at an early stage of the disease.

6. Because although, from mere lapse of time, the early symptoms of venereal diseases may disappear while the patient is under quack treatment, he is not thereby saved from their disastrous after-effects.

7. Because the efforts which the State, at great cost, is making to stamp out venereal diseases are rendered nugatory, in so far as patients resort to quacks instead of to the free treatment centres now being established.

8. Because quack treatment lends itself to blackmailing, which is known to exist in some cases.

These reasons are incontrovertible and overwhelming. The evidence is absolute that the drugs which herbalists, for instance, employ are futile against venereal disease, and give a false sense of security to the patient, to his mortal danger, and with appalling risk to the innocent persons, his wife and children, born and unborn, whom he will very probably infect. At one period in the nineteenth century, when mercury had been overused, the medical profession abandoned it, and used only sarsaparilla against syphilis. This drug is totally inert; it simply does nothing. That any victim of the disease should be fooled with sarsaparilla, when salvarsan is in the world, is an outrage against which no vested interests can be quoted for a moment.

Before leaving this point, one last word to the suspicious who may think that this is a matter of professional vested interest. No one who knows anything of the venereal diseases as the real causes of innumerable maladies at all ages, from before birth to senility, in all classes and in both sexes, and of the curative influence of competent early treatment to-day, will question the assertion that the quack who tackles these diseases is the best friend of the doctor's pocket, and that to suppress him is to deprive countless doctors of their living hereafter.*

(3) The Ministry of Health: and Nothing Less.

Despite the foregoing, there as yet exists nothing like adequate provision for competent diagnosis and treatment, upon which prevention of these diseases in an already infected community depends. The need for treatment is increasing, alas, much more rapidly than the provision of such treatment, and many of those who are and will be officially responsible are almost in despair when they contemplate what demobilization will mean. The *Journal of State Medicine* for April will contain a paper by Colonel Harrison, in which he indicates the need for the establishment of treatment or disinfection centres on a large scale if an immense epidemic spread of these diseases is not to make demobilization almost worse than the war. Colonel Harrison's views have the general support of the leading students in this country, but nothing adequate is yet being done.

Our only chance, I repeat, is the immediate establishment of that Ministry of Health for which I asked as an urgent war measure three years ago. Women must press for this great piece of reconstruction. As the naturally ordained guardians of the next generation, they may feel inclined to be content with the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill which Mr. Hayes Fisher has just introduced. This aims at noble objects, but is entirely inadequate. The venereal diseases, together with their accomplice, alcohol, are the chief enemies of motherhood and infancy to-day. It is the neo-natal mortality—that in the first month after birth—which chiefly defies us still, and its chief factor is ante-natal syphilitic infection, killing shortly after birth. Further, gonorrhœa is the chief cause of sterility in women and of the diseases peculiar to their sex. I appeal to women to use their power as voters in this matter. The issue seems almost designed to test the perspicacity of newly enfranchised motherhood. Let it, or I should say Her, decline to be content, even with a Bill for maternity and child welfare, despite its name, if, as we anticipate, that Bill is used to shelve the Ministry of Health.

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Perhaps the reader is wondering how much further this article is to be prolonged before I reach the question of tolerated houses, but really we cannot go back to that. There is no time, This is 1918. The truth that such houses spread disease instead of preventing it was demonstrated long ago, and the Royal Commission unanimously condemned them.

The real question for controversy to-day is that on which Major Leonard Darwin and the Rev. Archibald Fleming, D.D., were at issue during the Conference held by the National Council of Public Morals—the conditions of the use of disinfection or "prophylaxis," or "early treatment," *before* symptoms appear—like the early use of tetanus antitoxin for our wounded men.

That—and not tolerated houses—is the real matter for discussion to-day; one on which men equally honourable, experienced, and high-minded find themselves at variance. To that, perhaps, as also to various other factors of prevention, I may later return.

* The first prosecution under Lord Rhondda's Act occurred a few weeks ago and resulted in a conviction.

Reviews.

The Labour-Saving House. By Mrs. C. S. Peel. (John Lane. 3s. 6d.)

Mrs. C. S. Peel has lately published a book (John Lane, 3s. 6d.) called "The Labour-Saving-House"—a title that sets every woman who has ever kept house reflecting upon the many ways in which labour has actually been created by every house in which she has ever lived. One thinks of all the unnecessary steps demanded by unduly long passages and by superfluous stairs; of the patterns impressed upon almost every surface capable of receiving a pattern, and of all the fatigue and difficulties of cleaning that might have been spared if all these objects had been left plain. Above all, one thinks of the wasteful, individualist ways in which we buy and cook our food, and afterwards wash up the vessels. With all these stupidities and extravagances in mind one turns to Mrs. Peel's pages and finds her devoting her attention chiefly to heating and arrangements for ablution. Of her forty-six illustrations, at least forty represent appliances by which gas or electricity can be substituted for coal. All that she says upon these subjects is both sensible and useful; and most useful of all, perhaps, are the pages about the costs of electricity and the reductions that ought to be made in them. Her approval, however, of coke furnaces that require re-lighting at early hours every morning, is more questionable, and her omission to mention anthracite rather surprising. An anthracite stove requires no re-lighting, very little filling, and has the rare virtues of really warming a room and of warming it all the time. The Kooksjoie range, too, not only cooks, but warms the kitchen; it supplies hot water day and night, and will keep going two or three radiators, needs lighting but once a season, and has no flues to be cleaned. It is apt, indeed, I understand, to eat more than its professed ration of half a ton a month; but where is the stove—gas, electric, or coal—that consumes in the ordinary customer's hands quite as little as in the expert's reckoning?

But for the greatest waste of labour in our houses Mrs. Peel offers no remedy. That waste consists of the employment in domestic industry of far more women than the industry really needs. To have separate meals cooked in each house, and the work of each house performed by means of such poor appliances as an individual householder can afford to carry on a necessary business in a wildly unbusinesslike manner, and, incidentally, to deny to that business any chance of becoming a highly skilled industry. This form of waste-labour Mrs. Peel would perpetuate, and, indeed, intensify. She desires "that every girl, no matter of what class, should be taught how to cook and to clean, and to wash, tend, and feed a young child." It appears as though she would like such teaching made compulsory by law. Nature however preaches quite firmly a different doctrine, and insists upon making many

girls without any aptitude at all for any branch of housekeeping. To train them in that business is simply to waste time that might be better employed. In my childhood every daughter of prosperous families was taught the piano—and never was the general standard of music at home so low. Quite as many women are congenitally incapable of becoming good housekeepers as of becoming good musicians. What is really needed is a much higher level of trained skill among a much smaller number of housekeepers, the development of expert specialists, each capable of superintending the buying, cooking, and serving of meals, and the supply of competent trained servants for a fixed number of hours to the houses of an organised group of neighbours.

In that direction, quite inevitably, lies the future of modern housekeeping; and the choice that still remains to individual householders is whether they will (as I earnestly hope) retain in their own hands the control of their own housekeeping, or allow it to be administered for them by outside persons, official or commercial.

Under any such system of really expert centralised management houses would become labour-saving houses indeed, for they would cease to have kitchens and sculleries; food would be cooked, no doubt, by electricity; while washing-up—that most laborious and detested of domestic duties—would be performed in a central wash-room, where a Niagara of boiling water would run through racks of ranged crockery, and would presently be followed by simoons of hot air, which would dry every article as it stood in place, untouched by hand or cloth.

My Husband Still. A Working Woman's Story. Compiled by Helen Hamilton. (Bell. Popular edition. 2s.)

We are told by Mr. John Galsworthy, who writes an introduction to this book, that it is a real "human document" compiled from the journal and *viva voce* accounts of a working woman. It does, in fact, bear the stamp of truth, and for this reason it is moving. The story of Mrs. Tyrell's life and struggles, her relations with her mother, her husband, her children, and her later love all carry conviction and bring home to one a host of social troubles and difficulties which could not all be remedied by a change in the divorce and separation laws. The book is, however, issued as a "Plea for Divorce," and those who read it will be driven to think about the inequalities of the present system which upholds one law for the rich and another for the poor, one law for the man and another for the woman. It is one of the subjects that people ought to be thinking about at the present time, and we welcome the re-issue of this book.

A SONNET OF THANKSGIVING.

"Thanksgiving Sunday," January 6th, 1918.

Winter upon the world, its shortest day
A fortnight past, yet the faint dawning light
Scarce earlier seems to steal upon the night,
Or, re-engulfed in blackness, longer stay:
And winter in men's hearts; why, then, should lay
Solemn and sweet of thanksgiving resound
From utmost corners of our round earth's bound?
Why call for praise?—out of the depths men pray
For glories all undreamt of that have shone
Brightest in blackest;—men's hearts high to fight
And women's to endure, when Earth's help none
God's arm made bare—for Wrong slinking from Right.
Its dayspring dawning slow o'er land and main.
His Kingdom comes whose right it is to reign.

Jeanie Morison.

The Conscientious Objector.

"I've called," said Miss Piffley, brightly, "to ask for your support for the National Pushers, a party which welcomes the help of women on an equal footing with that of men."

"How *nice* of them," cooed little Mrs. Ferntree; "and doesn't a woman's vote count the same as a man's?" she asked anxiously. "Is it half or something?"

"It's the same, of course," Miss Piffley said shortly. "Now we want all the women to join. Our aims," lifting a pile of papers which seemed to hint that the shortage in paper was a joke, to the little woman's knee; "you will see there. They are fine; and I'm sure you will become one of us. Women must use their influence. Women are now citizens, and must take an interest in the men who are entering politics——"

"You're the Conscientious Objector, aren't you?" Mrs. Ferntree said, leaning forward her pretty face, flushed and eager.

"*What!*" cried Miss Piffley, jumping in her seat.

"The Conscientious Objector," said the eager voice. "One of those who wouldn't do any fighting for the vote. I remember your meeting so well! How fine it was! You told us so clearly that women weren't fit to have any power; that they were unintelligent and couldn't understand politics. It was wonderful!"

"I'm afraid," said Miss Piffley, loftily, "that I'm still of that opinion—in regard to some cases"—with a meaning look at the rather blank face opposite—"but under direction—with men to lead them."

"Oh, this is a men's party?" cried little Mrs. Ferntree.

"Of course! It is a complete breaking away from traditions. You *must* realise, my good girl, that the old parties, the Casuals and the Dunderheads, and the Thumpers, have failed. Everything is new, and we must build afresh."

"But shouldn't we have fresh bricks?" asked Mrs. Ferntree, softly.

"We are starting fresh," said Mrs. Piffley, with a cold look. "A fresh programme."

"Oh, I see," little Mrs. Ferntree said, brightening. "The members of Parliament who couldn't get in as Casuals or Dunderheads or Thumpers, will have a fresh chance as Pushers! Yes, that's clever!"

"Well—er—that is hardly our object," faltered Miss Piffley, who was not used to having people strip a thing quite so bare. "Ours is a fine party, the party all women should join. I hope to get your name?" She smiled blandly, and poised a pencil between slim fingers as she looked hopefully at Mrs. Ferntree.

"You see—after that meeting of yours," faltered the little woman, "I did feel—I felt it strongly at the meeting—that women weren't all fit to vote; and you see you told us you were so unintelligent; and you ought to know, oughtn't you?" she added, anxiously. "So I don't quite see how I am to follow you, and yet I do admire you so much! Do you know, coming home from that meeting, we talked about you, and Bob said you were just like the male conscientious objectors, and would take all you could get when the other people had done the fighting. I said you wouldn't; and I'm right, you see!" she added triumphantly. "You're letting the men take your vote! How unselfish you are! But one does feel that one must be guided by a man," she added, thoughtfully. "It's so *right!* Now that we've got the vote, we must be very careful not to oppose the men in any way, or think for ourselves. Of course, you've explained that we can't."

"This is a man's party," Miss Piffley said, a little hurriedly, regarding the bright, blank little face with a frown. "Will you join us? You'll only be told when to vote, and for whom. Surely you can do that!"

Mrs. Ferntree shook her head doubtfully.

"Since your meeting, I've been afraid of politics," she said. "They are so deep for us, and, after all, if a woman must be told what to do by some man, it's as well to give way to her husband and do what he tells her. You see"—with a bright smile—"I belong to the 'good women,' the ones they spoke about in Parliament, you know, who will do as they're told. Bob will see to that," she added faintly.

Miss Piffley got to her feet coldly.

"I am afraid I have been wasting my time," she said. "Good-day!"

She shook the dust of the house from her feet as she walked indignantly out into the sunshine again.

"The woman's a fool!" she said.

When Bob Ferntree came home that night his wife met him as usual in the small hall. She did not appear to be in the least afraid of him, and on his side he had no assumption of the tyrant. When they were sitting down at their meal he looked across at his wife with a smile.

"Anything happened? Any visitors?" he enquired.

"Yes, I've had the Conscientious Objector—the great Miss Piffley herself. You remember her meeting?"

"Rather!" said Bob, with feeling. "I remember your remarks on the way home. I lit my pipe by 'em!"

His wife flung him an indignant glance.

"Miss Piffley's canvassing for the National Pushers!" she told him. "After assuring us that we're none of us fit to understand politics, she—SHE—sets out to teach us what to do with the vote she hasn't lifted a finger to get!"

"I feel sorry for Miss Piffley," said Bob pensively.

His wife looked up indignantly, and then, meeting his merry eyes, she subsided into helpless laughter.

"But I wasn't"—she defended herself—"half so bad as I might have been!"

But Bob only said again, "Poor Miss Piffley!"

H. Adshead.

Obituary.

Much sympathy will have been felt by members of the N.U. for Miss Rathbone at the recent news of her mother's death at the age of eighty-six. Mrs. William Rathbone, of Liverpool, was an active philanthropist—district nurses, and invalid and crippled children were among her chief interests; she was also a very strong suffragist. We are glad that Mrs. Rathbone lived to witness the political enfranchisement of women.

Reports.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS MARGARET JONES.
HON. MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. ALYS RUSSELL.
Secretary:
MISS GLADYS DAVIDSON.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London

Headquarters.

The first business of the Executive Committee at its meeting on March 21st was to pass resolutions of sympathy with two of its members, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, whose mother, Mrs. William Rathbone, died on March 19th, and Miss Helen Fraser, whose brother was killed in a recent naval engagement. Miss Fraser, as readers of THE COMMON CAUSE know, is herself absent in America, where she is carrying on a great speaking campaign on "Women's Work in the War."

Easter Holidays.

Will members kindly note that the offices of the N.U.W.S.S. will be closed from Thursday evening, March 28th, until the following Wednesday morning, April 3rd.

Literature Department.

THE slip for the diary containing the qualifications for Parliamentary and Local Government Franchises as finally laid down in the Act is now ready. Every purchaser of the diary is entitled to one of these revised pages, which will be sent within the course of next week. Should it fail to arrive, purchasers are asked to apply for one.

There are a few diaries still remaining into which the revised page of qualifications has been inserted. The Women Citizens' Diary justifies its title in being a handbook containing a good deal of information. In addition to the above mentioned item, specially valuable to women citizens, it contains a very complete directory of addresses useful to women, lists of women's hospitals and hospitals worked by women, procedure of meetings, classified list of M.P.s, etc., etc. Cloth copies only are left. These may be had for 1s. 6d.

Scottish societies will be glad to know that a special edition of the Qualifications leaflet, "Six Million Women Can Vote," has been printed which is applicable to Scotland only. These are 1s. 6d. per 100 (postage 2½d.)

MRS. STOCKS.

Members of the N.U.W.S.S. will hear with interest that Mrs. Stocks has a son born on March 23rd. Mrs. Stocks took a vigorous part in the Council meeting, and we have the pleasure of publishing an article by her in this issue on "Equal Pay for Equal Work." A second article by her on the same subject will be published next week.

Celebration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	645	14	0
Miss E. M. Joseph ...		6	0
Lady Cunard ...	10	0	0
Miss D. B. Allwork ...		10	9
Miss Sarah A. Welsh ...	1	1	0
Miss M. E. Paine ...	1	0	0
Miss E. D. Nicholson ...	1	1	0
Cash Collection, Queen's Hall Meeting, March 13th ...	57	13	6
	£716	16	3
PROMISES.			
Mrs. Auerbach	20	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. John Bailey ...	2	0	0
Miss I. M. Hervey ...	3	0	0
Miss Hilda Jones	1	0	0
Miss L. C. Jones	2	2	0
Miss Margaret I. Tuke ...	5	0	0
Mrs. R. S. Conway	1	1	0
Mrs. Lapthorn	1	0	0
Mrs. Sprigge	1	0	0
Miss Maud Gibson... ...	2	0	0
Miss C. M. Stockfeld ...	1	0	0
Mr. E. Reeks		2	6
Mrs. Rose Atchison ...	1	1	0
Miss Frances M. Sterling ...	1	0	0
Miss Helena B. Dowson... ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Reid	2	2	0
Miss A. Maud Dowson ...	1	0	0
Lady Strachey	2	0	0
	£1,482	12	0

ERRATUM.—In our issue of March 22nd, p. 660, the last paragraph but one under Women Citizens' Associations was accidentally misprinted. It should read:—"That if it is proposed in any locality to set up Women Citizens' Associations on lines varying substantially from those herein set out, the question as to whether the N.U. shall take part in the formation thereof shall be referred to the N.U. Executive."

PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE

"The best provision for the future is the present."
George Macdonald.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
(Funds £16,000,000)

Write to the WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT of the SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION for an explanation as to how provision can best be secured.

HEAD OFFICE:
6, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

LONDON OFFICES:
3, Lombard Street, E.C.3
17, Pall Mall, S.W.1

GLASGOW OFFICE:
23, St. Vincent Place.

.....

Please send particulars explaining how provision for future can best be made by a life aged..... next birthday

Name.....

Address.....

.....

By Appointment to H.M. The King.

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Milk is Nature's food for infants; it cannot be improved on. Therefore *begin right* by using

NESTLÉ'S MILK

which is still

THE RICHEST IN CREAM

Mothers and others in charge of children, and those managing Infant Welfare Centres, who find it difficult to get Nestlé's—or who are offered dried milk or any other substitute, should communicate at once with their Local Food Committee, who are competent to deal with the matter, and ask them to secure for the Babies Nestlé's Milk, in which they have confidence. Should they still be unable to get what they want they are cordially invited to write direct to us and we will do the best we can to ensure a supply.

NESTLÉ'S, 6-8, EASTCHEAP, LONDON, E.C. 3

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Please Contribute to the £2,000 Fund for Developing

THE

COMMON CAUSE

The present is a great opportunity for a Woman's paper

6,000,000 Women Have Got the Vote

THEY ARE FACED WITH GREAT PROBLEMS.

"The Common Cause" is the only paper which gives a platform for the free discussion of all the great questions which are of special interest to enfranchised women and those who still await their enfranchisement.

If you feel it important that these questions should be discussed, please make this paper known and send a Contribution to the Editor.

"COMMON CAUSE" APPEAL FUND.

To the Editor, "The Common Cause,"
Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1

I enclose £ : s. d. as my contribution to the Appeal Fund

Name _____

Address _____

_____

CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PUBLIC MORALS.

At the morning session of the second day of the conference held by the N.C.P.M., the subjects for discussion were (1) a Ministry of Health, (2) Ethics of the Prevention of Venereal Disease.

After a few words by the Rev. Principal A. E. Garvie, M.A., D.D., in the chair, Dr. Chas. Saleeby moved the following resolution:

"That this conference, whilst heartily approving the objects of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill, deplores the long and still-continued sacrifice of the nation's present health and future life to departmental and financial vested interests, and calls upon the Government not only to introduce, but also to pass a Ministry of Health Bill without further delay."

Although the health of the nation is at present good, Dr. Saleeby stated the prospects for the future are ominous. The health statistics were satisfactory, the infant death-rate was never so low as it is at the moment; but, he added, there was the future to consider. We were not maintaining the birth-rate numbers. If it was not worth while to go on with the race, it could not be worth while to go on with the war, and at present we are not going on with the race. The Child Welfare Bill, though excellent, was not adequate to deal with the problems which would accompany demobilisation; it provided the things for which Alderman Broadbent and Dr. Eric Pritchard had been working for years; but it did not provide against the causes of pre-natal death—the racial poisons of alcohol, syphilis, and gonorrhea. The only machinery for dealing with these was a Ministry of Health. A Ministry of Health Bill was to be introduced by the Government, and this Bill must be passed.

Alderman A. E. Broadbent, C.B.E., said that as many systems of infant welfare existed in this country as there were cities. In one town £1,000 per annum was spent on infant welfare, and the death-rate was 100. In another only £600 was spent, and the death-rate was 70. It was obvious that some schemes were more successful than others. A Ministry of Health ought to be set up to co-ordinate all these different centres of activity. Alderman Broadbent referred to the absurd and ridiculous arrangement, now subsequently altered, whereby the maternity benefit was the property of the husband.

Dr. Violet Kelynack said that people talked of the dangers of invasion, but the daily danger to children was far worse. Information concerning sex and the care of their bodies should be given to growing boys and girls. Such teaching is gratefully accepted by girls from women doctors, and such teaching ought to be arranged for by the education authorities.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Major Leonard Darwin then spoke on the Ethics of Prevention of Venereal Disease. The report of the Commission showed, he said, that one in ten men was, or had been, infected with syphilis or gonorrhea. The sufferings caused by this disease to the innocent were terrible. As to the cure, all medical men agreed that treatment should not be delayed even a few hours. The best cure, other than medical, would be to stamp out promiscuous sexual intercourse. We must make men stronger to resist temptation, we must make men realise the danger, and we must promote temperance and order in the streets. In connection with this last matter, women police were extremely useful. (Applause.) We must strengthen moral education. Chastity was the only right and certain way of seeking safety. With regard to notification, it would undoubtedly lead to concealment, and therefore to the further spreading of the diseases. No time need be spent in discussing the C.D. Acts; they would never be re-introduced. There were, said the speaker, only two classes of people who advocated their re-introduction—people whose opinions were not worthy of respect, and people ignorant of facts. Naval and medical authorities made no demands for the C.D. Acts. The number of cases of disease in the army fell 75 per cent. after their repeal; it was therefore impossible on military grounds to advocate them. (Applause.) The case against State controlled houses was equally clear, both as a means of lessening disease and as regarded ethics. They gave a false sense of security. Anyone who read Flexner's great book would see that when vice was regulated, unregulated vice flourished; and this clandestine vice spread disease more than anything. Regarded ethically, the demoralising effect of regulation upon prostitutes was great, and demoralisation spreads just as much as disease. Besides, the official charged with administering regulation could not be whole-hearted in trying to banish vice; the demoralisation of police in State-regulated cities was a common occurrence. We were all glad to hear that the brothels in France had been put out of bounds.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS. MASS MEETING.

The Mass Meeting held at Albert Hall by the National Federation of Women Teachers on March 23rd passed the following resolution:—

"That this Mass Meeting of men and women voters denounces the prevailing custom of paying a double standard of wage to men and women for the same type of work, and calls upon the Government to give a lead to the country by establishing the principle of "equal pay for equal work" in all branches of its service."

Comments will be found in our leader.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES.

Is is significant that a thanksgiving service for Women's Suffrage was allowed to be held in Norwich Cathedral on February 23rd, at which Archdeacon Westcott and the Dean presided, and at which the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were present.

A Thanksgiving Service was held on February 22nd at St. James's Church, Darlington, under the auspices of the Church League for W.S. It was conducted by the Rev. T. C. Gobat, M.A., a staunch supporter of the cause.

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when sending donations.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS ABOUT WOMEN VOTERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.

It has been suggested that it would be useful for the information of potential voters if some of the queries received by the Parliamentary Department of the N.U.W.S.S. were printed from time to time in The Common Cause, together with the answers to them.

Please note that all queries on this subject, whether they are intended to be answered by post or in The Common Cause, should be addressed to the Parliamentary Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 62, Evelyn House, Oxford-street, London, W. 1.

M.A.M.—If a woman has lived in a furnished lodging for years past, and now buys her furniture, can she get her name on to the register now and vote at the next General Election?

If she buys her furniture now, March 22nd, and so becomes from this date a lodger in unfurnished rooms she would qualify to be registered if she continued in the rooms and was in them from July 15th, 1918, to January 15th, 1919, and would be able then to vote at an election which was held after April 15th, 1919.

"The Common Cause" Fund.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed to our Common Cause Fund very warmly indeed. It is a great encouragement to have this week a gift of £200. The origin of this gift is as follows: A friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, presented to Mrs. Fawcett a cheque for £1,000, as a thanksgiving offering for our suffrage victory this year, and the nucleus of a fund for future work. Mrs. Fawcett was requested to spend this money exactly as she thought best. She has accordingly distributed it between various N.U.W.S.S. funds, and among those The Common Cause has received the noble gift of £200.

We hope the kind donor knows at what an opportune moment her help has come. We wish to thank her and all the others who have helped us this week. We wish also to thank the many kind friends whose appreciative letters about The Common Cause are such an encouragement. We can only repeat that this is a time of opportunity and a time of difficulty, and that we do earnestly want the help of our friends both to profit by the former and to overcome the latter.

We trust that all who possibly can will contribute to the Fund.

Contributions should be addressed to The Editor, The Common Cause, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1., and it should be made quite clear that they are contributions to The Common Cause's Own Fund.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" £2.000 FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already Acknowledged ...	16	7	0
Mrs. Hastings ...		5	0
Miss Mary Abbott ...	1	1	0
Miss M. A. Martin ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Lake		2	0
Mrs. I. R. Wilson ...	1	0	0
Miss C. Cruikshank ...		10	0
Miss Maud Place		10	0
Mrs. Fyffe	1	1	0
Mrs. Stocks	1	0	0
Miss M. Phillips		5	0
Anonymous (per Mrs. Fawcett)	200	0	0
J. Tindle Anderson, Esq. ...		7	2
Miss Bulmer	10	0	0
Mrs. Tatham		10	0
Dr. Helen Wilson	3	0	0
Mrs. C. S. Peel	1	1	0
Miss Aphra W. Hargrove ...		5	0
Miss A. M. Rogers ...	1	0	0
Total	£239	4	2

The Special Number.

Will members who desire copies of the Special Number write at once to the Manager. This souvenir number, which will be of great interest in time to come, should sell well at all meetings. Price 2s. per dozen of thirteen, carriage paid by us.

LONDON UNITS

of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The first two parties of the Elsie Inglis Unit have now reached Salonika, and it is probable that the first detachment has already gone up country. Letters received say that the journey was made with a minimum of inconvenience, and that the members thoroughly enjoyed the chances afforded them of visiting many historic places *en route*. The third and last party will be leaving about the end of the month, with the rest of the motor transport equipment.

The London Committee make a special appeal to all readers of Common Cause for funds for the maintenance of the Elsie Inglis Unit. The Jugo-Slav (Serbian) Division, to which the Hospital is attached, is entirely dependent on the efforts of the Scottish Women for its divisional field-hospitals, and the work must therefore be mainained at full strength.

The need is specially urgent, in view of the fact that the Germans are massing on the Balkan Front, and the Division may be called upon to suffer heavy casualties in the near future.

Contributions will be gratefully received by the Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves (Hon. Treasurers), 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

OUR THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

This Hut, which is to be erected for the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain, is still in need of support. We earnestly beg our readers to contribute what they can to this worthy object.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	505	0	10
Mrs. Slater		5	0
Dunstable Branch of the N.U.W.S.S., per Miss M. Lathbury	1	0	0
Mrs. Mallalieu		10	0
Miss Alice M. Kemp	5	0	0
Mrs. Notcutt		5	0
Miss Mary H. E. Bunting ...	1	0	0
Miss M. L. Matthieson		10	0
Further Sale of Necklace (made by Mrs. Garrett)		3	6
Miss G. M. Clayton		2	6
Mrs. Paris		2	6
Chepstow Branch of the N.U.W.S.S., per Mrs. Hartland	1	10	0
Further Sale of Necklaces (made by Mrs. Garrett and Miss Giles, making a total of £2 1s.)		14	6
Mrs. Jefferd		10	0
Mrs. Maclagan		2	6
Miss Ruth Dodds	5	0	0
Mrs. Hawes		10	0
Miss Goodrich		5	0
Further Sale of Necklaces (made by Mrs. Garrett and Miss Giles)		12	0
Four Heilbron Teachers, South Africa, per Miss L. B. Hasleden	2	5	0
Total	£525	7	10

GARROULD'S

TO H.M. WAR OFFICE, H.M. COLONIAL OFFICE, INDIA OFFICE, LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL, THE MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS, THE PRINCIPAL HOSPITALS, ETC.

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Made in good quality West of England Serge, for Winter Wear, 42/- and 45/6. Also in Summer Weight Serge and Cravenette, 52/6, 58/6. Patterns post free. Official Hat in good quality Navy Felt, post free, 6/11. Box, 1/- extra.

OFFICIAL COAT FOR THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE V.A.D. MEMBERS.

In Dark Grey Cloth, for Winter Wear, 28/6.
In Dark Grey Cheviot Frieze, 42/-, 45/6, and 55/6.
In fine Summer Weight Serge, 37/6.
Official Hat in best quality Black Felt, post free, 7/11. Box 1/- extra.

WATER BOTTLES (Rubber). English Manufacture. Each Bottle Guaranteed.

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Anonymous	15	0	
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Forthcoming Meetings.

MARCH 27.

Kidderminster—N.U.W.S.S., Kingsley Hall—Mrs. Ring — 2.45 p.m.

W. Newington—Women's Liberal Association, 219, Walworth Road — Speaker: Miss Margaret Jones—Subject: The Representation of the People Act" and "Women's New Place in Politics" 3 p.m.

Kidderminster—Town Hall—Chair: Rev. J. E. Stronge—Mrs. Ring 8 p.m.

Reports from Societies.

MAIDSTONE.

THE NEW ERA—WOMEN AS CITIZENS.

Maidstone, with Brighton, is a pioneer in the movement of Women Citizens' Associations. Only these two towns in the South of England at present possess such organisations.

The first public meeting was held in the Town Hall on March 4th, and the Mayor, Councillor G. Foster Clark, presided over a crowded meeting.

The Honourable Mrs. Hardcastle spoke first, and expounded the aims of the association. She emphasised the need for women to strive for and keep a high standard in all their dealings and work. Mrs. Heron Maxwell pointed out the fruitful field of action for the energetic worker which local government affords.

The ethical, educational, and industrial aspects were also spoken on, and the association starts with a membership of over 120.

The Mayoress in office is president, and the Honourable Mrs. Hardcastle is chairman of committee. Hon. organising secretary, Mrs. J. Hewlett Hobbs, 13, Hastings Road, Maidstone; hon. corresponding secretary, Miss G. Brown; hon. treasurer, Mr. Sidney Smith.

Miss Hilston, organiser for the N.U., has been responsible for arranging this association, and her untiring efforts have met with every success.

The general meeting was held by kind invitation of Mrs. Sidney Smith at Howard House on February 27th. After the business meeting Miss Hilston addressed the members on the need for and aims of a Women Citizens' Association in every town, and an interesting discussion followed.

CAMBRIDGE.

A service of thanksgiving and dedication was held by the Cambridge branch of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, on March 17th, in St. Botolph's Church, which had been kindly lent by the vicar for the purpose. A good congregation was present, members of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association and C.L.W.S., and the service was conducted by Rev. Dr. Bethune-Baker (Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity), and by the Rev. Dr. Tennant. The former gave an inspiring address, dwelling on the vision of the Heavenly City, Heb. xi., 10, to which our ideals must approximate.

CARLISLE.

On the afternoon of Sunday, March 17th, in St. Paul's Church, was held the special service of dedication and thanksgiving on the granting of the vote to women. There was a large congregation, composed almost entirely of women. Canon Gardner gave an inspiring address on the text "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Now that the Women's Vote was an accomplished fact, women were looking forward to helping in the "building of the Kingdom of God" in the reconstruction after the war. He could not believe that any woman would grudge the trouble to study questions affecting the welfare of their fellows, especially the children. It was with the view of dedicating these new powers to the service of God and Man that they had met that day.

SOUTH KENSINGTON INDEPENDENT BRANCH OF THE L.S.W.S.

The executive committee of the South Kensington Independent Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage have not allowed the grass to grow under their feet, for they called a general meeting of their members on the Monday following the N.U. Council meetings to consider the future work of the branch in the light of the decisions of the Council. The meeting, which was very well attended, was held at 18, Sheffield Terrace, Campden Hill, by kind invitation of Miss Frances Sterling. Mrs. Squire Sprigge was in the chair, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey gave an account of the Council meeting, which was followed by discussion. The branch adopted the additional objects as passed by the Council, and as the first step towards putting this decision into effect the committee recommended its executive committee to form Women Citizens' Associations in the borough of Kensington, in co-operation as far as possible with other women's societies. A strong resolution of protest against the allowing by the Government and the British military authorities of *Maisons Tolérées* for the use of British troops in France was carried unanimously, and afterwards sent to the member, Lord Claud Hamilton, the Prime Minister, Lord Derby, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Items of Interest.

BOURNEMOUTH FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE.

The hon. treasurer of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' Branch in this town, lately elected to serve on the Food Control Committee, had the honor of being proposed as chairman of the Committee, composed of 13 men and 2 women, and was unsuccessful by only one vote.

The Memorial Appeal Committee of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital (formerly the New Hospital for Women), Euston Road, N.W., gratefully acknowledge a donation of £50 from Lady Meyer towards the endowment of the "Francis Mary Buss Bed" under the Garrett Anderson Memorial Scheme. Any contributions towards this object will be gratefully received by Lady Hall, hon. treasurer of the Garrett Anderson Memorial Fund, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, 144, Euston Road, N.W. 1

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(Continued on page 680

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Continued from page 679.

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